



## YOUTH ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

## JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM'S BEST KEPT SECRET

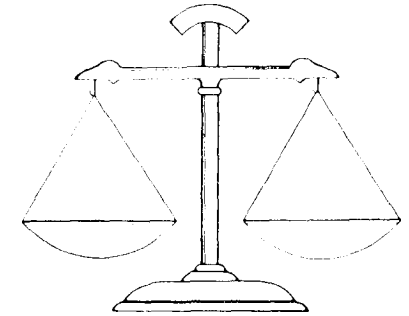


### HELP YOUNG OFFENDERS GET ON TRACK

**A Board Conference** ..... rather than a  
Court hearing

**A Contract** ..... rather than a  
sentence

**In the Community** ..... rather than in  
the courts



The Youth Accountability Board of the San Bernardino County Probation Department is based upon the premise of "a community response to a community problem." Through this program, concerned citizens in each community reach out to assist young offenders and their families AND IT WORKS!

Youth: *"I learned that people in the community actually wanted to help out the offender. I always heard that there were people in the community who want to help, but actually seeing them in action Made a big impact on me. "*

Youth: *"It taught me self-control and facts about real life peer pressure. "*

Youth: *"Extremely effective. I cannot say enough about the Conference Committee. They were sensitive, fair, effective, authoritative. I believe that not only the theft*

*situation is resolved, but as a family, this has brought its closer. Thank You. "*

"Ideally, our task should be in organizing the neighborhood - the grassroots level - so that there is an identifiable group of responsive and responsible people whose aim is not living for themselves but for others. We will in time discover that that is the only path to self-fulfillment."

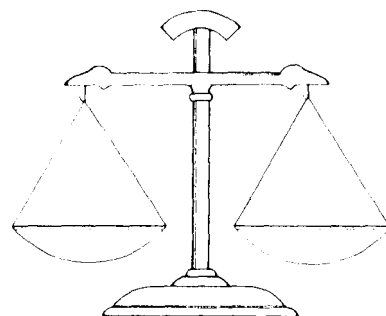
William O. Douglas  
Justice on the Supreme Court

## YOUTH ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD (YAB)

Each year thousands of children between the ages of 10-17, girls and boys, rich and poor, have a brush with the law. The charges?

Typically the crime is shoplifting, trespassing, possession of drugs or alcohol, fighting, disturbing the peace or joyriding.

In many cases, these youth lack the skills and insight they need to steer clear of trouble. Most need to be reminded that each person is responsible for his or her acts.



## WHAT DOES A YOUTH ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD (YAB) DO?

The Board's job is to interview the offender and his or her parents, then develop a constructive accountability plan. The plan, put in the form of a legally binding contract, may contain an assignment of community service, skill building classes, counseling and/or restitution. When the youth signs, he or she agrees to fulfill the terms of the contract, or be remanded to the Juvenile Justice System.

The main goal of the Board is to help young people establish a sense of community values and a sense of personal responsibility for their actions.

Upon the successful completion of his/her accountability contract, the first time youthful offender benefits by avoiding an official record of a law violation.

## YOU CAN BECOME A YOUTH ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD (YAB) VOLUNTEER

Anyone is eligible who would like to help young people and . . .

- is able to communicate with them.
- Can be objective.
- cares about the quality of life in his, her community.
- passes the background check.

What training is offered and what is the volunteer time Commitment?

- Training sessions are provided by the San Bernardino County Probation Department.
- Additional training is offered 2-3 times yearly.
- YABs involve one or two three-hour meetings per month.

What are the advantages of a Youth Accountability Board? Research indicates:

- 92% of the youth successfully complete their contract.
- They provide early community intervention and are confidential.
- They may save taxpayers over \$1 million yearly.
- They maximize citizen participation in the justice system.
- They reduce court congestion.

YABs have enormous positive impact on young people, their families and the community. Please Call if you would like to help serve young offenders and your community through a YAB.

San Bernardino County Probation Department  
MUM ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD  
San Bernardino ... (909) 387-5827/5769  
Rancho Cucamonga ... (909) 944-4551  
Victorville ... (619) 243-8121